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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DODE-00 /101 R

66621

DRAFTED BY: OASD/ISA:CVMCLAUGHLIN

APPROVED BY: EUR/RPM:EJSTREATOR

OASD/ISA:GBEN HLOBDELL

OASD/PA&E:WOODS

EUR/RPM:LTC RATHOMPSON

PM/ISP:JGRAHAM

EUR/WE:EBEIGEL

EUR/RPM:WROMINE

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R 112249Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

CINCEUR

USDEL MC

USLO SACLANT

CINCLANT

S E C R E T STATE 048627

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, BE

SUBJECT: NATO FORCE PROPOSALS/GOALS 1975-80 - BELGIUM

REFS: A. STATE 42348; B. MCM-14-74; C. DRC/WP(74)2

D. USNATO 1233

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

1. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES SPECIFIC GUIDANCE FOR MISSION
USE DURING DRC REVIEW OF BELGIAN FORCE PROPOSALS/GOALS.
THE GENERAL APPROACH USED IN DEVELOPING THIS GUIDANCE WAS

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DESCRIBED IN REFERENCE A. FYI. WE WOULD REITERATE THAT

THE CONCEPT EMPLOYED IN ARRIVING AT U.S. PROPOSED FORCE GOALS DOES NOT ATTEMPT TO SUPPLANT THE MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS EXPRESSED AS MC PRIORITIES IN FORCE PROPOSALS. RATHER, IT USES THOSE PROPOSALS AS A DEPARTURE POINT TO INTERWEAVE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND USG POLICY CONSIDERATIONS INTO THE FORCE PLANNING PROCESSES OF THE ALLIANCE. END FYI.

2. AS DESCRIBED IN REF A, OUR QTE REASONABLE CHALLENGE UNQTE FOR NATO COUNTRIES WAS DEFINED AS THE INCREMENTAL FUNDS -- OVER AND ABOVE CURRENT NATIONAL EXPENDITURE PLANS -- THAT COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE DURING 1975-80 IF THEY MAINTAINED THEIR CURRENT PERCENTAGE OF GNP DEVOTED TO DEFENSE. IN THE CASE OF BELGIUM, HOWEVER, NATIONAL PLANS ALREADY CALL FOR A LEVEL OF SPENDING GREATER THAN THAT

WHICH WOULD BE ACHIEVED BY MAINTAINING THE PRESENT GNP PERCENTAGE. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE NOT RECOMMENDED THAT BELGIUM MAKE AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL FUNDS ABOVE CURRENT NATIONAL PLANS.

3. WE HAVE ALSO FOLLOWED THE PROCEDURE DESCRIBED IN REF A FOR DISTILLING OUT OF THE BELGIUM CHAPTER OF DRC/WP(74)2 A U.S. PROPOSED LIST OF PRIORITY ONE FORCE GOALS. IN THE CASE OF BELGIUM, NARROWING THE CRITERIA FOR PRIORITY ONE TO THOSE FORCE PROPOSALS WHICH SEEM TO ADVANCE NATO'S FORCE STRUCTURE TOWARDS THE OBJECTIVES EMPHASIZED BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAS RESULTED IN THE PROPOSED FORCE GOALS INCLUDED BELOW IN TABLES III-C-I THROUGH 3. AS A SINGLE EXCEPTION TO USING ONLY THE U.S. CRITERIA, WE HAVE INCLUDED AMONG OUR PROPOSED PRIORITY ONE FORCE GOALS, FOR POLITICAL REASONS, MC PROPOSAL SERIAL 1L11 (HONEST JOHN REPLACEMENT BY LANCE) -- WHICH IS ALREADY INCLUDED IN NATIONAL PLANS.

4. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULTY OF FINDING ADDITIONAL MONEY TO FUND MC FORCE PROPOSALS NOT NOW COVERED BY PLANNED EXPENDITURES, WE ALSO NOTE SEVERAL MC PROPOSALS TO WHICH WE WOULD ASSIGN LESS THAN HIGHEST PRIORITIES. THESE PROPOSALS WERE EXCLUDED IN COMPILING

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THE PRIORITY ONE TABLES BELOW. IN OUR VIEW, CONSEQUENTLY, THE PROPOSALS WE HAVE RETAINED REPRESENT THE LAST THINGS THAT SHOULD BE DROPPED FROM BELGIUM'S LIST OF ACCEPTED FORCE GOALS.

5. HOWEVER, THE FORCE PROPOSALS EXCLUDED FROM OUR TABLES BUT INCLUDED IN COUNTRY PLANS AND GIVEN MC PRIORITY ONE NEED NOT BE ELIMINATED IF BELGIAN AUTHORI-

TIES BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO RETAIN THEM. THEY COULD BE MOVED TO PRIORITY TWO OR THREE.

6. WE ASSUME MISSION WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH APPROPRIATE DELEGATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL STAFF IN CARRYING OUT MISSIONARY WORK PREPARATORY TO ACTUAL DRC SESSIONS.

7. THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS PROVIDE DETAILS ON THE FORCE PROPOSALS FOR BELGIUM.

SECTION II: COMPUTATION OF QTE REASONABLE CHALLENGE UNQTE EXPENDITURE TARGET FOR BELGIUM.

THIS SECTION DESCRIBES THE PROCESS USED TO ESTABLISH OUR REASONABLE CHALLENGE EXPENDITURE TARGETS FOR BELGIUM. A SUMMARY OF THE KEY STEPS IS PRESENTED BELOW FOLLOWED BY A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF DATA SOURCES AND ASSUMPTIONS.

1972 CONSTANT PRICES, B. FR. IN MILLIONS

(1)	(2)	(3)
PROJECTED	PERCENTAGE OF	1975-80 DEFENSE
1975-80	GNP CURRENTLY	EXPENDITURES TARGET
GNP	DEVOTED TO	BASED ON MAINTAINING
	DEFENSE	CURRENT PERCENTAGE
		OF GNP DEVOTED TO
		DEFENSE
		(1) X (2)

10,332,642	3.1	320,312
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(4)	(5)
PROJECTED	REASONABLE CHALLENGE
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1975-80 DEFENSE	(DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
EXPENDITURES	TARGET AND NATIONAL
BASED ON CURRENT	PLANS)
NATIONAL PLANS	(3) - (4)

333,146	-12,834
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SUMMARY OF KEY STEPS

FIRST, WE PROJECTED TOTAL BELGIAN GNP FOR 1975 THROUGH 1980 (COL. 1). NEXT, WE MULTIPLIED THIS FIGURE BY THE PERCENTAGE OF GNP CURRENTLY DEVOTED TO DEFENSE (COL. 2) TO DETERMINE THE TOTAL FUNDS THAT WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR DEFENSE DURING 1975-1980 IF BELGIUM ADHERED TO MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE CALLING FOR NATIONS TO ALLOCATE AT

LEAST A CONSTANT SHARE OF THEIR NATIONAL WEALTH, I.E.,
THEIR GNP, TO DEFENSE (COL. 3). WE THEN DETERMINED WHAT
FUNDS BELGIUM WOULD HAVE AVAILABLE FOR DEFENSE DURING
1975-1980 BASED ON CURRENT NATIONAL EXPENDITURE PLANS
(COL. 4). COLUMN 5 IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TOTAL
DEFENSE EXPENDITURES BASED ON MAINTAINING THE CURRENT GNP
PERCENTAGE (COL. 3) AND TOTAL DEFENSE EXPENDITURES BASED
ON CURRENT NATIONAL EXPENDITURE PLANS (COL. 4). THIS
WAS INTENDED TO REPRESENT OUR PROPOSED REASONABLE
CHALLENGE, THE INCREMENTAL AMOUNT A COUNTRY WOULD BE
EXPECTED TO DEVOTE TO DEFENSE TO FUND PRIORITY ONE FORCE

PROPOSALS THAT ARE NOT ALREADY IN COUNTRY PLANS.

IN THE CASE OF BELGIUM, THE DEFENSE EXPENDITURE TARGET
BASED ON MAINTAINING THE CURRENT PERCENTAGE OF GNP DEVOTED
TO DEFENSE (COL. 3) IS LOWER THAN PROJECTED EXPENDITURES
BASED ON NATIONAL PLANS (COL. 4), INDICATING THAT FOR
BELGIUM PROJECTIONS EXCEED OUR DEFINITION OF REASONABLE
CHALLENGE. BELGIAN PLANS CALL FOR A 4 PERCENT PER YEAR
INCREASE IN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES, WHEREAS, DUE TO THE
ENERGY CRISIS, BELGIAN GNP IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE AT
AN AVERAGE OF LESS THAN 4 PERCENT. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD
NOT EXPECT BELGIUM TO MAKE AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL FUNDS --
OVER AND ABOVE NATIONAL PLANS -- TO FUND FORCE PROPOSALS
NOT YET IN COUNTRY PLANS.

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DATA SOURCES AND ASSUMPTIONS

PRICE BASE: ALL COMPUTATIONS WERE DEVELOPED ON THE
BASIS OF 1972 CONSTANT PRICES. THIS WAS THE PRICE BASE
USED BY SHAPE TECHNICAL CENTER IN ITS COST ESTIMATES OF
THE FORCE PROPOSALS.

GNP

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, MEETINGS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), MILITARY CAPABILITIES, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE048627
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: OASD/ISA:CVMCLAUGHLIN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740352/aaaabwxd.tel
Line Count: 205
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 42348; B. MCM-14-74; C. DRC, /WP(74)2
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 28 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO FORCE PROPOSALS/GOALS 1975-80 - BELGIUM
TAGS: MCAP, BE, NATO
To: NATO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005